

## **Remarks**

Upon entry of the foregoing Amendment, claims 1-36 are pending. Claims 1, 12, 23 and 34 are amended; no claims are added and no claims are cancelled. Applicant believes that support for this Amendment can be found through the specification as filed. In view of the foregoing Amendments and the following Remarks, allowance of the pending claims is requested.

### **Examiner Interview**

Applicant thanks Examiner Pitaro and Examiner Kinkaid for granting Applicant's representative the courtesies of an Examiner Interview on September 14, 2006. During the Examiner interview, Applicant's representative discussed the differences between the claimed invention and the references relied upon by the Examiner as set forth below in further detail.

### **Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 4-5, 9-13, 15-16, 20-24, 26-27, and 31-34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,771,288 to Boulter ("Boulter"), in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 20030065814 to Ishii ("Ishii"). Applicant traverses these rejections for at least the reasons that the references relied upon by the Examiner, either alone or in combination with one another, fail to teach or suggest all the features of the claimed invention. For example, the references relied upon by the Examiner fail to teach or suggest at least the feature of *"receiving through the interactive display updates to at least one propagation status of at least one of the bridging ports of at least one of the switches..."* as set forth in the Reply filed on February 21, 2006 and as discussed during the Examiner Interview.

Nonetheless, solely in an effort to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant has amended, for example, claim 1 to include the feature of *"displaying the changed at least one propagation status through the interactive display."* As discussed during the Examiner Interview, Applicant submits that at least this feature of the claimed invention is not taught or suggested by the references relied upon by the Examiner, in

part because Boulter and Ishii, alone or in combination with one another, do not teach or suggest a propagation status as discussed above. Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of this claimed based on these references.

Claims 12, 23, and 34 have also been amended to include a feature similar to that discussed above with regard to claim 1. Accordingly, the features of these claims are not taught or suggested by the references relied upon by the Examiner. Claims 2-11, 13-22, 24-33, and 35-36 depend from and add features to one of claims 1, 12, 23, and 34 and are likewise not taught or suggested by the references relied upon by the Examiner.

Applicant requests that the rejections of the pending claims be withdrawn and the claims passed to allowance.

## **Conclusion**

Having addressed each of the foregoing rejections, it is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Date: **September 18, 2006**

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Rick A. Toering  
Registration No. 43,195

**Customer No. 00909**

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN, LLP  
P.O. Box 10500  
McLean, Virginia 22102  
Main: 703-770-7900  
Direct Dial: 703-770-7939  
Fax: 703-770-7901